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December 19, 1998
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Chairman William Kennard
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Dear Chairman Kennard:

On December 4, 1998, I wrote to you AS AN INDIVIDUAL, vowing to stand with you so long as you continue to press for MEANINGFUL Radio Reform.

Today, I am pleased to write to you in a more official capacity -- as current National Coordinator of THE AMHERST ALLIANCE. Having considered these matters, our Members support AND appreciate your Radio Reform initiatives.

We at Amherst encourage you, as strongly as we can, to continue pressing forward with re-legalization of Low Power Broadcasting (LPBC) AND with reasonable, meaningful proposals for radio station divestiture. We are prepared to lobby Congress on these matters if such action should prove necessary.

As I believe you know, THE AMHERST ALLIANCE was founded on September 17, 1998 in Amherst, Massachusetts. Its genesis was the writing of THE AMHERST DECLARATION: a statement of basic principles for re-legalizing, and re-energizing, the small radio stations which once flourished across this nation. The Declaration calls for LPBC licensing, at financially sustainable power levels, for BOTH commercial-airing stations AND commercial-free stations.

In 3 months, THE AMHERST DECLARATION has gained 160 Signatories from 35 States. THE AMHERST ALLIANCE -- a group which strives to convert the basic principles of The Declaration into a workable reality -- has organized 18 active local chapters (from Florida to Alaska), formed several Committees and established weekly CyberMeetings of the Amherst Coordinators (equivalent to a Board of Directors). We will soon file our first Written Comments with the FCC.

In short, THE AMHERST ALLIANCE is gaining strength AND intends to be a permanent presence in communications policy debates. Please regard The Alliance as an ally in your efforts to achieve MEANINGFUL Radio Reform -- including the crucial reforms of LPBC re-legalization and radio station divestiture.

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THE AMHERST ALLIANCE
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Sincerely,



Don Schellhardt
For THE AMHERST ALLIANCE

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Co-Petitioner, FCC DOCKET NO. RM-9208
B.A. Wesleyan (Connecticut); J.D. George Washington (Washington, DC)
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Commissioner Michael Powell

Commissioner Russell Ferchgott-Roth
Commissioner Gloria Tristani

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Senator Ernest Hollings (D-SC)
Senator Conrad Burns (R-MT)

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Representative William Oxley (R-OH)
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(R-MS)

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Daschle (D-SD)

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Gephardt (D-MO)

Representative David Bonior (D-MI)